

Case 3274***Hydroporus foveolatus* Heer, 1839 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence of the specific name over *Hydroporus nivalis* Heer, 1839**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name of *Hydroporus foveolatus* Heer, 1839 for a species of diving beetle (family DYTISCIDAE) from the mountains of central and western Europe, by giving it precedence over the senior synonym *Hydroporus nivalis* Heer, 1839. The two names had long been treated as synonyms until they were reconsidered to represent distinct species. For more than 100 years the name *H. foveolatus* has been used for the species described as *H. nivalis*. However, recent examination of their type specimens has confirmed that they are synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; DYTISCIDAE; *Hydroporus*; *Hydroporus foveolatus*; *Hydroporus nivalis*; Alps; Europe.

1. Heer (1839, p. 157) described two species of diving beetle, *Hydroporus nivalis* (species no. 17) and *H. foveolatus* (species no. 18) (family DYTISCIDAE), which were collected at several localities (Bergliseeli, Seeloch, Klausen, Gotthardseeli and Prunellenalp) in the Swiss Alps.

2. The two nominal species were considered to be synonyms by Schaum (1844, p. 197). Acting as First Reviser, he later used the name *Hydroporus nivalis* Heer, 1839 as the valid name for the taxon (Schaum, 1845, p. 406). For almost 50 years afterwards *H. foveolatus* Heer, 1839 was treated as a junior synonym of *H. nivalis* (e.g. Redtenbacher, 1858, p. 91; Gemminger & Harold, 1868, p. 437; Schaum, 1868, p. 67; Sahlberg, 1875, p. 150; Sharp, 1882, p. 469 and Seidlitz, 1887, pp. 73, 74).

3. Ganglbauer (1892, pp. 475, 476) resurrected the name *H. foveolatus* for the species described by Heer (1839) as *H. nivalis* and used the name *H. nivalis* for another species including among its synonyms *H. sabaudus* Fauvel, 1865 and *H. alticola* Sharp, 1882. Uncritical use of the names *H. foveolatus* and *H. nivalis* followed the interpretation established by Ganglbauer for more than a century (see Kolbe, 1899, p. 24; Zimmermann, 1920, pp. 87, 94; 1931, pp. 47, 48; Guignot, 1931–1933, pp. 349, 376; 1947, pp. 99, 104; Balfour-Browne, 1940, p. 340; Bertrand, 1949, p. 26; Zaitzev, 1953, p. 170; Schaefflein, 1971, p. 39; Galewski, 1971, pp. 26, 30; Franciscolo, 1979, pp. 331, 365; Angelini, 1984, pp. 62, 67; Guéorguiev, 1987, p. 70; Schaefflein & Wewalka, 1982, p. 8 and Nilsson, 2001, p. 163).

4. The synonymy of *Hydroporus foveolatus* and *H. nivalis* recognized by Schaum (1844, p. 197; 1845, p. 406) has been confirmed by recent examination of the type material and lectotypes of the two nominal species were designated by Shaverdo (2003, in press). The species that has been regarded as *H. nivalis* since Ganglbauer (1892) is currently known as *H. sabaudus* Fauvel, 1865. Comparison of the type specimens of *H. sabaudus* and its synonym *H. alticola* has confirmed *H. sabaudus* as a valid species (see Shaverdo, 2003). Accordingly, the species known for over 100 years as *H. foveolatus* sensu Ganglbauer (1892) would have to bear the name *H. nivalis*. These taxa are morphologically and ecologically very similar and often share the same habitat (high altitude lakes, pools and ditches). Using the name *H. nivalis* in the original sense would cause considerable confusion and instability in nomenclature and ecology. We therefore propose, in accordance with Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3, that the specific name *H. foveolatus* be given precedence over the name *H. nivalis* whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *foveolatus* Heer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus foveolatus*, precedence over the name *nivalis* Heer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus nivalis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *foveolatus* Heer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus foveolatus*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *nivalis* Heer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus nivalis*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *nivalis* Heer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus nivalis*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *foveolatus* Heer, 1839, as published in the binomen *Hydroporus foveolatus*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

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